

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 EB-07 SSM-03 /076 W
-----291502Z 020760 /43

R 291300Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4298
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1097

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS ET SU
SUBJECT: SUDANESE CONGEN'S VIEWS ON NIMEIRI STATEMENT

REF: KHARTOUM 3827 (281010Z DEC 76) (NOTAL)

1. APO CALLED ON SUDANESE CONGEN ABDULLAH JABIR TO DISCUSS
NIMEIRI'S DEC. 26 WARNING THAT SUDANESE DISSIDENTS IN ETHIOPIA
MAY CONDUCT RAIDS ACROSS THE SUDANESE BORDER. WHILE NOT POSSESS-
ING ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION AS TO WHAT INSPIRED NIMEIRI TO
ISSUE SUCH A WARNING AT THIS TIME, ABDULLAH OFFERED HIS PERSP-
ECTIVE ON IT INT EH CONTEXT OF THE GENERAL DETERIORATION OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOS AND THE EPMG. HIS VIEWS SUPPORT THOSE
REPORTED REFTEL.

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2. ABDULLAH POINTED OUT THAT FOLLOWING THE ABORTIVE COUP IN
JULY, 1976, THERE WAS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE EPMG HAD COOPER-
ATED WITH THE LIBYANS IN SLIPPING THE DISSIDENT ANSARS ACROSS
SUDAN TO LIBYA FOR TRAINING. DESPITE THIS, THE GOS WAS RESTRAINED
IN THEIR ALLUSIONS TO ETHIOPIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP, BECAUSE

THE GOS SOUGHT BOTH TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING ETHIOPIAN AND TO RETAIN A VIABLE POSITION AS INTERMEDIARY IN THE ETHIOPIAN-ERITREAN DISPUTE. THIS POLICY WAS GRADUALLY UNDERMINED, HOWEVER, AS ETHIOPIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS BECAME INCREASINGLY OPEN AND CORDIAL, AS DEMONSTRATED WARM RECEPTION A LARG DELEGATION RECEIVED ADDIS. ABDULLAH IMPLIED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD A HAND IN THE RECENT IMPROVEMENT OF EPMG-LARG RELATIONS, AS A FURTHER ELEMENT IN THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST SUDAN, AND BY EXTENSION, EGYPT.

3. ABDULLAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NIMEIRI'S STATEMENTS WOULD CRIPPLE FOR THE NEAR FUTURE ANY EFFECTIVE ROLE FOR THE GOS IN MEDIATING THE ERITREAN PROBLEM. HE CLAIMED THAT THE GOS WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC AS TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE ERITREAN SITUATION BOTH BECAUSE OF EPMG INTRANSIGENCE AND FRAGMENTATION WITHIN THE INSURGENT MOVEMENT. ABDULLAH THEORIZED THAT BEFORE INTEREST IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT COULD BE REKINDLED, THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING WOULD AGAIN HAVE TO REACH THE HEIGHTS OF EARLY 1975. ONLY THEN WOULD WORLD ATTENTION FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES BE APPLIED TO FIND A SETTLEMENT.

4. ABDULLAH IS ANXIOUSLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS TRANSFER AFTER TWO YEARS IN ASMARA. HE WAS TO HAVE DEPARTED AT THE END OF DECEMBER, BUT NOW SAYS HIS AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED HIM TO REMAIN AT LEAST ONE MORE MONTH, AND PERHAPS TWO. HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT IS TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL OF MOFA IN KHARTOUM. HE IS NOT PLEASED WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT AND IS MANEUVERING TO BE ASSIGNED AS THE MINISTRY'S CHIEF OF EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.
WAUCHOPE

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